

REMARKS

Applicants extend their gratitude to the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 15, 22 and 26. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the language of claim 15 so that the curable mechanical fastener of the invention includes a complementary surface on which a fastening surface can be attached. The claims set forth Applicants' discovery of a curable mechanical fastener with a fastening surface having a curable material that can be repeatedly attached and unattached to a complementary fastening surface, yet when the two surfaces are cured, provides a permanent attachment. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objections

Claim 4 has been objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 (c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In view of the amendment to claim 1, Applicants assert that this objection is moot, and therefore should be withdrawn.

Rejections

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious Ohno et al. (Published Japanese Patent Application 63-14756).

Ohno et al. teach a wall surface mounting implement having a curable adhesive agent and a heating source casing that houses a heat fuel. To attach the implement to a wall, the thermosetting adhesive on the implement can be cured by applying a flame to the fuel and allowing the fuel to burn. Unlike Ohno et al., Applicants' invention is a mechanical fastener that has releasable attaching ability to a complementary fastening surface, yet, upon curing, can have permanent attachment to the complementary fastening surface. This is clearly different from the implement of Ohno et al., which uses a thermo-curable adhesive to initiate the cured attachment. Ohno et al. does not teach nor even suggest a mechanical fastener, as presently claimed, having a fastening surface and a complementary fastening surface that can be repeatedly attached and unattached, and when cured, is capable of a permanent attachment. Furthermore, nowhere in Ohno et al. is it taught or suggested to modify a mounting implement to have a mechanical

attachment capability as opposed to only a thermosetting attachment. Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Based on the above reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections have been overcome and request that the claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if it would assist in expediency in proceeding this application to allowance.

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims:

Claim 1 and 4 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A curable mechanical fastener comprising:
a fastening surface comprising a curable material; and complementary fastening surface,

wherein the fastening surface is capable of being repeatedly attached and unattached to [a] the complementary fastening surface, and [when attached] wherein the fastening surface is capable of becoming permanently attached to the complementary fastening surface when [and] cured [is capable of becoming permanently attached to the complementary fastening surface].

4. (Twice Amended) The curable mechanical fastener of claim 1[5], wherein the complementary fastening surface comprises a curable material.